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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable John Dingell  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

This is in reply to a concern expressed by your constituent, Lawrence J. McCartney, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Mr. McCartney is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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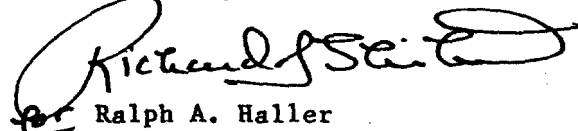
Honorable John Dingell

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

  
Ralph A. Haller  
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:  
Notice  
Order  
Discussion paper

cc:  
Chief, PRBureau  
Chief, LM&M Divison  
Deputy Chief, LM&M Division  
Lou Sizemore, Room 857  
Docket Files, Room 222  
Licensing Div., PRB, c/o Room 5202  
P&P Branch Files

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The Honorable John Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 30, 1993

Dear Congressman Dingell,

I am an active member of the Livingston County Radio Control Club and derive hours of enjoyment from constructing and flying radio control model airplanes.


I am very concerned about a proposed rule that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has under consideration in PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model aircraft. Keep in mind that safety is foremost in areas where models are operated at private fields, and at airshows where there are large spectator crowds who also enjoy the sport. These particular models weigh from 4 to 40 pounds depending on make and model. They travel anywhere from 30 to 130 miles per hour and can become dangerous missiles if control is lost by a radio signal interfering with the signal of the pilot controlling the model. When we fly our models under radio control, we go to great lengths to ensure the safety of the operators, public bystanders and take every measure for the protection of private and public property.

Now the FCC wants to endanger this hobby by creating more land mobile frequencies through making the band widths narrower in the 72-76 Mhz band. If this rearrangement is allowed and band width is made narrower, by inserting two frequencies in between the channels now assigned at 10Khz spacing, it will reduce our safety margin down to 2.5 KHz, and will be allowing mobile transmitters with four times as much power to operate in that band, there is no question as to what is going to overpower the model transmitter, causing loss of control and possible damage to a very expensive model airplane with the very distinct possibility of causing property damage or personal injury.

I do not think it is wise for the FCC to seek improvement for the land mobile operators at the expense of Radio Control Model builders/flyers. The FCC may not think that we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry. This hobby is the starting place for many of our young people who build/fly model airplanes to learn about aviation to better their chances of securing employment in the aviation industry.

Please help us continue to enjoy my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out proposals for the 72-76 Mhz Band, proposed in MPRN-PR 92-235, which if implemented will have a profound effect on model frequency use. Of the 50 frequencies now allocated and presently in use, only 19 will remain.

Sincerely,

  
Lawrence J. McCartney  
7678 Mohican Dr.  
Brighton, MI. 48116

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671

# of pages = 1

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